



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

Alaska: The Cost of Inaction

Alaska Families Suffer

Alaska insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$6,026.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$12,198.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$24,693, a 102 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 42.6 percent of projected Alaska median family income.

More uninsured Alaskans

- ✓ Every day, 20 Alaskans lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 209,000 Alaskans under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 33 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 115,824 Alaskans under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 18.9 percent of the under 65 population.

Alaskans pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Alaska families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,900 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Alaska have a combined market share of 95 percent.

Alaska Businesses Suffer

Fewer Alaskans have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 63 percent of Alaskans under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 58.1 percent of Alaskans had coverage through their employer.

Fewer Alaska small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2001, 32.2 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 24.5 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

Alaska Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Alaska spent \$4.2 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$6,450 per capita, and is 11.6 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Alaska economy will lose \$330 million - \$670 million due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.